

Sins of the Tongue

Respectable
Sins

Sins of the Tongue

James 1:15

Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Matthew 12:36

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak; they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:37

For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

The Untamable Tongue
James 3:1-12



▶ The Untamable Tongue

- James uses powerful expose of the sins of the tongue and failures that taint our speech
- James is inspired to explain the affects of the use of tongue through nature, animal, and materials.
- Lashon is the word used to describe the noun (tongue). About 120 times used in scripture.
- Application of tongue is used both literally and metaphorically.
Genesis 10:5, Deuteronomy 28:49, Esther 1:22



- ✓ **Gossip**
- ✓ **Slander**
- ✓ **Critical Speech**

3 commonly used 
Sins of the
Tongue

▶ GOSSIP

Is the spreading of unfavorable information about someone else even if that information is true.

- Gossip is based on rumors, which makes the sin even worse.
- Indulging in gossip seems to feed on our sinful ego (1 Kings 18).
- Gossiping develops a feeling of self-righteous by comparison (Proverbs 18:8).
- We should not spread around the bad news or something negative about someone.

Answer to GOSSIP

- Ephesians 4:29 – *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give **grace to those who hear**.*
- Ours words and speech has far reaching outcomes on a person (Proverbs 25:11)
- Lack of proper speech and irresponsive attitude towards others can weaken our fellowship with one another.
- Put on proper speech that builds up and gives grace to the hearer.

Will my
kind of
speech tear
down or
build up the
person.

▸ SLANDER

is making a false statement or misrepresentation about another person that offends or damages the person's reputation.

- Assign wrong motives to people without seeing their heart or knowing their circumstances (Exodus 20:16).
- Fall into slander when we say another believer is “not committed” in the ministry.
- He or she does not practice the same spiritual disciplines we do.
- Blow out of proportion another person's sin (James 4:11).

Motive is often to gain advantage in some way over another person

Answer to SLANDER

- A good test we might use of our speech – IS IT TRUE?
- Ephesians 4:25 - *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*
- Put away lying. Desire/Aim to speak the truth always.
- Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, *even as* God in Christ forgave you.

CRITICAL SPEECH

is negative comments about someone that may be true but that don't need to be said.

- E.g., “he comes late to church”, “she cannot control her kids”, “are they going to join our fellowship knowing what they did”.
- We not only sin in our speech about one another but we also sin when talking to one another.
- Common denominator of negative speech; tends to put down, humiliates, or hurts the other person.
- Matthew 12:34 – *Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”.*

Our real
problem
is our
heart.

Answer to CRITICAL SPEECH

- Although we speak of sins of the tongue, our real problem is our heart.
- Tongue is the only instrument that reveals what's in our hearts.
- Psalm 19:14 – David prayed “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer*”.
- Apply Eph. 4:29 to our speech and our thoughts.

- A perfect man does not stumble in words.
- Tongue is small but can boast great things.
- The tongue can defile the whole body.
- Out of the same mouth proceed blessings and cursing.

Reflection & Application